

# Retro Advisory Committee

Meeting of August 12, 1997

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## Summary of Meeting

### Attendance:

|                          |   |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Nikki DeMarce, Associated Industries    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dick Mettler, NW Wall & Ceiling Contr Assoc |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | DeAnne Edwards, Pederson Fryer Farms    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rob Sumner, Timber Operator's Council       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Steve George, Hop Growers of WA         | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gene Vosberg, Washington Restaurant Assoc   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Joe Hawkins, Bekins Northwest           | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Tom Kwieciak, Bldg Industry Assoc of WA | <input type="checkbox"/> |   |

= Present

(Meeting could not be called to order as committee bylaws require a minimum of 6 voting members to constitute a quorum; therefore, no official business was conducted. Department speakers made informal presentations to members and guests in attendance. The following summary is provided for informational purposes only.)

**Introductions / Minutes** – The minutes of the June 10 meeting will be presented for approval at the next meeting of the committee (October 14, 1997).

**Update on Resource Reallocation** – *Doug Connell (Assistant Director for Insurance Services)* discussed the department's plan to improve service in Claims and reviewed the recent reallocation of resources by the department. Fifty-nine positions have been moved into claims administration from other areas of the agency. Because of the number of new claim managers (CM's) "in training," classes (which will average 10 CM's per class) will begin on 08/18/97 and will be staggered at least through the end of the year.

In addition to reducing caseloads, the department is working to make improvements to the claims management process. Consideration is being given to lessons learned from the LTD pilots and Evolution of Claims project. Also, \$1.9 million has been approved for technical system enhancements for Claims.

**Assignment of Liability for Occupational Disease Claims** – *Doug Connell* talked about the strong response from the business community after the announcement at the last retro advisory committee meeting that the department was considering changing the method of assigning liability for occupational disease claims. Since that announcement, Doug and other department staff have met with business rep's to discuss concerns and possible options to address this issue. Doug indicated that no change is planned at this time and it is clear that further stakeholdering is needed. He also said anyone interested in being on the stakeholder list should contact *Kathy Willis*, and that any comments can be forwarded to her as well. At the earliest, any rule change would probably be filed in mid-1998 with an effective date of 01/01/99.

**Actuaries Update** – *Bill White* discussed the upcoming hearings on the 1998 industrial insurance premium rates. The contingency reserve fund has increased to approximately \$1 billion; this will be taken into consideration when setting the rates. Notice of public hearings will be announced around the first of September.

**Regulatory Reform** – *Kathy Willis* talked about the survey that went out in June soliciting feedback on which rules should be changed, updated or eliminated. Reviewing the rules is a continuous process. She is still accepting any comments you might have; fax them to her at (360) 902-4258.

**Retro Staff Update** – Due to the impact of shifting 59 positions to the claims area, retro claim manager *Karen Peterson* will be leaving retro for a nine month temporary assignment to coach new CM's; the other retro CM's will cover for Karen during her absence. *Carla Reynolds* will be leaving retro shortly (her rotation is ending) to return to Employer Services, though she will remain through the end of September to help train her replacement, *Ervin Smith*.

**Retro Symposium** – *Mike Sotelo (AWaRE)* is working on the retro symposium, which will be held in conjunction with the Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference at the Seattle Center, October 30-31, 1997. The retro portion will be from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 10/30/97. Those who wish to attend the retro symposium only will **not** have to pay for conference registration. However, if you would like to participate in any of the other functions you will need to sign up for the conference (**\$45.00** until October 10, then **\$60.00** at the door). Call the toll-free registration hotline at (888) 451-2004, or contact *Char Alexander* at (360) 902-5446.

**Video Update** – *Jim Kozick (L&I Communications Office)* showed a videotape produced by the department which gives a brief employer orientation on workers' compensation. Committee members may request a copy of the tape if they are interested. Otherwise, the tape will be available to the public through the usual means (service locations, state library, etc). Jim can be contacted at (360) 902-5410.

**Meeting concluded** at 2:58 p.m.